

MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS:

9. (new) A method for operating a coin actuated entertainment automat comprising
 - placing a coin into a coin acceptance device of an entertainment automat;
 - testing the coin in a coin testing device;
 - displaying symbols on a symbol display device, wherein a displayed symbol combination comprises several symbols and wherein upon reaching of a predetermined symbol combination or upon reaching of a predetermined credit balance in a credit balance counter disposed on the side of the control unit in the following a symbol combination is displayed with the symbol display device;
 - controlling the course of the game with a control unit including a microcomputer and a pseudorandom number generator;
 - influencing the course of the game by an operational element disposed on the front side of the entertainment automat;
 - substituting a symbol by another randomly determined symbol;

renewing the symbols within a predetermined time window until a winning carrying symbol combination is reached; accumulating the obtained winning in a credit balance counter; and switching simultaneously the coin actuated entertainment automats disposed in the network into a common supplemental game when a predetermined value of a common jackpot is surpassed.

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 8 continue to be in the case. Claim 9 is being introduced, based on the specification, page 5, lines 7-10, and Claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) was filed on September 17, 2002, requesting 1 (one) month suspension of action on the present case. Further, the applicant filed a Request for Three-Month Suspension of Action on October 10, 2000. Nevertheless, the Final Rejection, dated October 3, 2002, was issued and mailed to the undersigned attorney as the first Office Action in the present case.

Applicant respectfully requests that a status of the Office Action of October 3, 2002 be changed from "Final" to "Non-Final" Action, and proper notification be sent to the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,
MICHAEL GAUSELMANN

By: 

Robert J. Ferb, his attorney
13 Forest Drive, Warren, N.J. 07059
Tel.(908)757-2839 Tel.(908)668-5262
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